

## EPI Update for Friday, July 19, 2013

### Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- ***Cyclospora* outbreak investigation continues and who to test**
- **West Nile virus update**
- **RAGBRAI XLI study**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

#### ***Cyclospora* outbreak investigation continues and who to test**

To date, almost all confirmed cases of *Cyclospora* in Iowa report their illness beginning on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>; therefore, healthcare providers should consider the following when determining whether *Cyclospora* testing is indicated:

- If diarrheal illness onset occurred after July 1<sup>st</sup>, illness is more likely caused by a different pathogen.
- The percent of ordered tests that are positive for *Cyclospora* is decreasing dramatically.
- Fresh produce (fruits and vegetables) has been implicated in previous *Cyclospora* outbreaks and interviews with those who have been ill indicate vegetables were probably the source of this outbreak. Illness onset dates, coupled with the shelf life of fresh produce, make it very likely the vegetable that was the source of the outbreak has already been eaten or thrown away, and will not cause anyone else to become ill.

While additional confirmed cases of *Cyclospora* infection continue to be reported and investigated, the focus of the investigation now turns to determining the source of the contamination (at no time was an Iowa-grown fruit or vegetable suspected to be the cause of the outbreak). In Iowa, this investigation is ongoing and led by DIA. IDPH will continue to update the CDC and the FDA as the Iowa epidemiologic investigation continues. Daily case counts will continue to be posted to the IDPH web site.

For continuing updates of the investigation, visit

[www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Cyclospora Outbreak Investigation](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Cyclospora%20Outbreak%20Investigation).

#### **West Nile virus (WNV) update**

Two human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Iowa this summer, including a middle-aged adult (41 to 60 years of age) male from Linn County and an adult (18 to 40 years of age) female from Shelby County. Sentinel surveillance has identified one sentinel chicken as positive for West Nile virus infection in Pottawattamie County. West Nile virus is endemic in Iowa and activity usually peaks in late summer and early fall. Please continue to encourage measures to prevent mosquito bites:

- Insect repellent containing DEET used as directed for age
- Light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and long pants when outside for long periods of time when mosquitoes are most active (between dusk and dawn)
- Empty standing water where mosquitoes may breed

For more information on West Nile virus, visit

[www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West%20Nile%20Virus](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West%20Nile%20Virus)

### **RAGBRAI XLI study**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) will take place July 21 through 27. An epidemiologist from IDPH will be participating and performing a study on dehydration and rehydration among RAGBRAI riders. We hope all those involved with this year's event have a safe and enjoyable week!

### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Extension Training Program for Infection Prevention: October 7-11, 2013 at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City. The five-day intensive program is designed to provide fundamental and current information relevant to infection prevention and control professionals. Scientific, regulatory, economic, and practice information will be included. Contact Martha Freeman at 319-356-1742 for more information.

### **Have a healthy and happy week!**

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